

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 13, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2541

**Introduced by Assembly Member Fletcher Members Portantino and
Fletcher**

February 19, 2010

An act to amend ~~Section 120190~~ *Sections 120130 and 121022* of the Health and Safety Code, relating to public health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2541, as amended, ~~Fletcher~~ *Portantino*. Reporting of certain communicable diseases.

Existing law establishes various communicable disease prevention and control programs. Existing law requires ~~a health officer to immediately report by telegraph or telephone to the State Department of Public Health every discovered or known or suspected case of those diseases designated for immediate reporting by the department to establish a list of reportable diseases and conditions and authorizes the department to adopt regulations requiring isolation or quarantine for any contagious, infectious, or communicable diseases, if necessary, for the protection of the public health.~~

Existing law requires the local health officer to report the listed diseases to the department, and requires that, within one year after the establishment of a state electronic laboratory reporting system, reports generated by a laboratory be submitted electronically in a manner specified by the department, except for reports of HIV infections. Existing law requires health care providers and laboratories to report cases of HIV infection to the local health officer using patient names.

~~This bill would also include electronic mail or facsimile as permitted methods of reporting these diseases to the department delete the exemption from electronic reporting for HIV infections and would make conforming changes. This bill would require the chief medical officer of an adult prison to report HIV infections, using the name of the patient, to the local health officer of the jurisdiction where the inmate resided prior to incarceration. To the extent that this bill would impose additional requirements on local public health offices, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.~~

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~-yes.
State-mandated local program: ~~no~~-yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 120130 of the Health and Safety Code is
2 amended to read:
3 120130. (a) The department shall establish a list of reportable
4 diseases and conditions. For each reportable disease and condition,
5 the department shall specify the timeliness requirements related
6 to the reporting of each disease and condition, and the mechanisms
7 required for, and the content to be included in, reports made
8 pursuant to this section. The list of reportable diseases and
9 conditions may include both communicable and noncommunicable
10 diseases. The list may include those diseases that are either known
11 to be, or suspected of being, transmitted by milk or milk-based
12 products. The list shall also include, but not be limited to,
13 diphtheria, listeria, salmonella, shigella, streptococcal infection in
14 food handlers or dairy workers, and typhoid. The list may be
15 modified at any time by the department, after consultation with
16 the California Conference of Local Health Officers. Modification
17 of the list shall be exempt from the administrative regulation and
18 rulemaking requirements of Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section

1 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code,
2 and shall be implemented without being adopted as a regulation,
3 except that the revised list shall be filed with the Secretary of State
4 and printed in the California Code of Regulations as required under
5 subdivision (d). Those diseases listed as reportable shall be properly
6 reported as required to the department by the health officer.

7 (b) The department may from time to time adopt and enforce
8 regulations requiring strict or modified isolation, or quarantine,
9 for any of the contagious, infectious, or communicable diseases,
10 if in the opinion of the department the action is necessary for the
11 protection of the public health.

12 (c) The health officer may require strict or modified isolation,
13 or quarantine, for any case of contagious, infectious, or
14 communicable disease, when this action is necessary for the
15 protection of the public health.

16 (d) The list established pursuant to subdivision (a) and any
17 subsequent modifications shall be published in Title 17 of the
18 California Code of Regulations.

19 (e) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no civil or
20 criminal penalty, fine, sanction, finding, or denial, suspension, or
21 revocation of licensure for any person or facility may be imposed
22 based upon a failure to provide the notification of a reportable
23 disease or condition that is required under this section, unless the
24 disease or condition that is required to be reported was printed in
25 the California Code of Regulations at least six months prior to the
26 date of the claimed failure to report.

27 (f) Commencing July 1, 2009, or within one year of the
28 establishment of a state electronic laboratory reporting system,
29 whichever is later, a report generated pursuant to this section, *or*
30 *Section 121022*, by a laboratory shall be submitted electronically
31 in a manner specified by the department, ~~except that this electronic~~
32 ~~reporting requirement shall not apply to reports of HIV infections.~~
33 The department shall allow laboratories that receive incomplete
34 patient information to report the name of the provider who
35 submitted the request to the local health officer.

36 (g) The department may on its Web site and via electronic mail
37 advise out-of-state laboratories that are known to the department
38 to test specimens from California residents of the new reporting
39 requirements.

1 SEC. 2. Section 121022 of the Health and Safety Code is
2 amended to read:

3 121022. (a) To ensure knowledge of current trends in the HIV
4 epidemic and to assure that California remains competitive for
5 federal HIV and AIDS funding, health care providers and
6 laboratories shall report cases of HIV infection to the local health
7 officer using patient names. *The chief medical officer of an adult*
8 *prison shall report a case of HIV infection, using the patient name,*
9 *to the local health officer in the jurisdiction in which the inmate*
10 *resided prior to incarceration.* Local health officers shall report
11 unduplicated HIV cases by name to the department.

12 (b) The department and local health officers shall ensure
13 continued reasonable access to anonymous HIV testing through
14 alternative testing sites, as established by Section 120890, and in
15 consultation with HIV planning groups and affected stakeholders,
16 including representatives of persons living with HIV and health
17 officers.

18 (c) The department shall promulgate emergency regulations to
19 conform the relevant provisions of Article 3.5 (commencing with
20 Section 2641.5) of Chapter 4 of Title 17 of the California Code of
21 Regulations, consistent with this chapter, within one year of the
22 effective date of this section.

23 (d) Pursuant to Section 121025, reported cases of HIV infection
24 shall not be disclosed, discoverable, or compelled to be produced
25 in any civil, criminal, administrative, or other proceeding.

26 (e) State and local health department employees and contractors
27 shall be required to sign confidentiality agreements developed by
28 the department that include information related to the penalties for
29 a breach of confidentiality, and the procedures for reporting a
30 breach of confidentiality, prior to accessing confidential
31 HIV-related public health records. Those agreements shall be
32 reviewed annually by either the department or the appropriate local
33 health department.

34 (f) No person shall disclose identifying information reported
35 pursuant to subdivision (a) to the federal government, including,
36 but not limited to, any agency, employee, agent, contractor, or
37 anyone else acting on behalf of the federal government, except as
38 permitted under subdivision (b) of Section 121025.

39 (g) (1) Any potential or actual breach of confidentiality of
40 HIV-related public health records shall be investigated by the local

1 health officer, in coordination with the department, when
2 appropriate. The local health officer shall immediately report any
3 evidence of an actual breach of confidentiality of HIV-related
4 public health records at a city or county level to the department
5 and the appropriate law enforcement agency.

6 (2) The department shall investigate any potential or actual
7 breach of confidentiality of HIV-related public health records at
8 the state level, and shall report any evidence of such a breach of
9 confidentiality to an appropriate law enforcement agency.

10 (h) Any willful, negligent, or malicious disclosure of cases of
11 HIV infection reported pursuant to subdivision (a) shall be subject
12 to the penalties prescribed in Section 121025.

13 (i) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit other
14 remedies and protections available under state or federal law.

15 *SEC. 3. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that*
16 *this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to*
17 *local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made*
18 *pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division*
19 *4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.*

20 ~~SECTION 1. Section 120190 of the Health and Safety Code~~
21 ~~is amended to read:~~

22 ~~120190. A health officer shall immediately report by electronic~~
23 ~~mail, facsimile, telegraph, or telephone to the department every~~
24 ~~discovered or known case or suspect case of those diseases~~
25 ~~designated for immediate reporting by the department. Within 24~~
26 ~~hours after investigation the health officer shall make reports as~~
27 ~~the department may require.~~